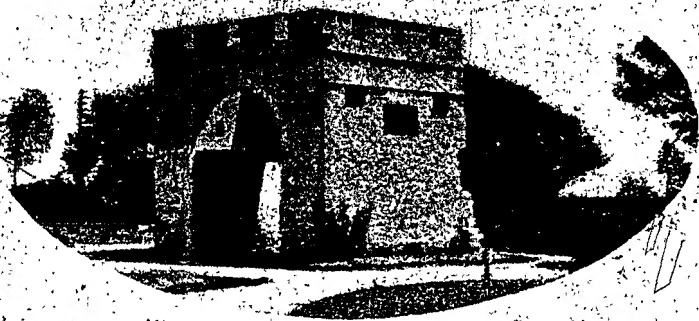


R
819.1
F231
w

Where The Rivers Meet





Where the Rivers Meet

A Retrospect and a Contrast

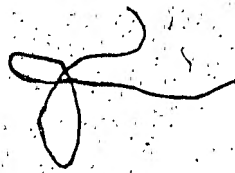
BY

T. D. J. Farmer

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

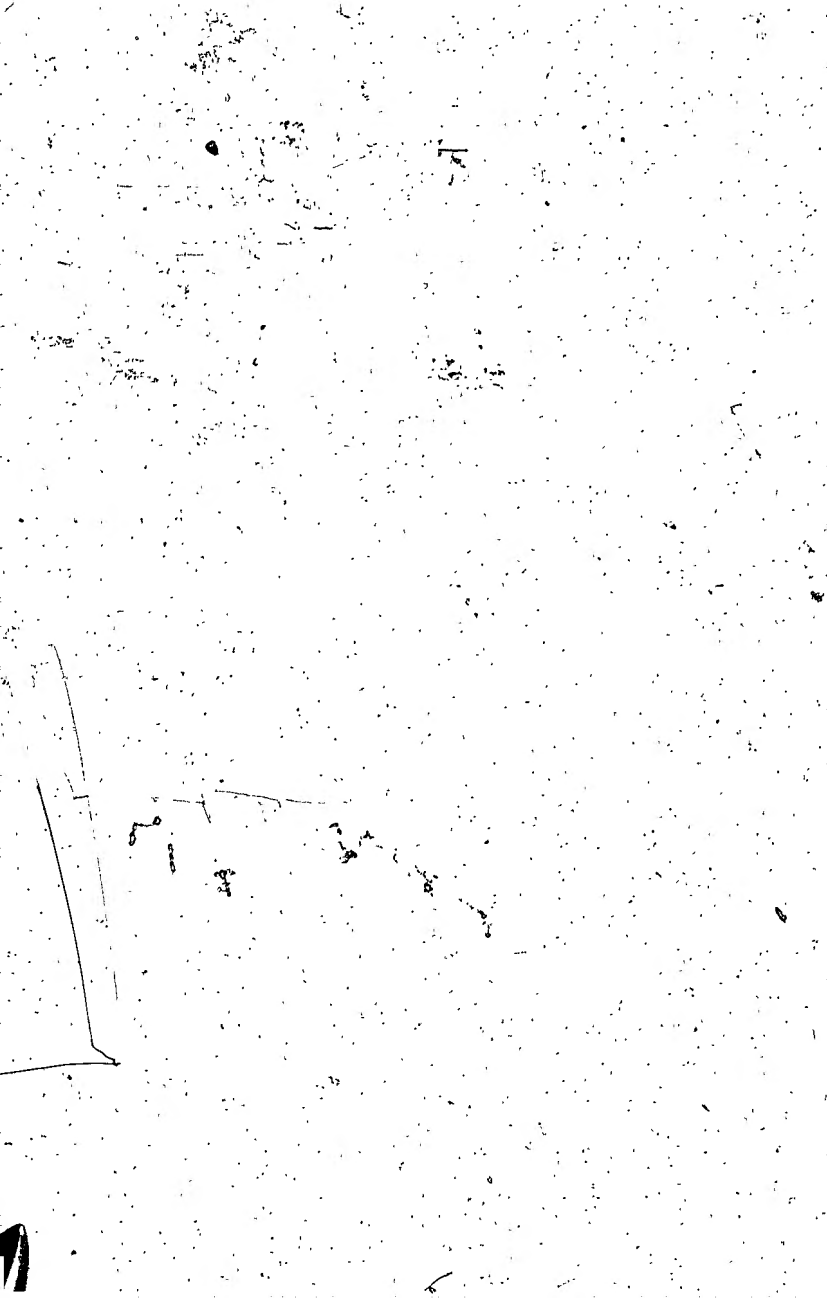
1911

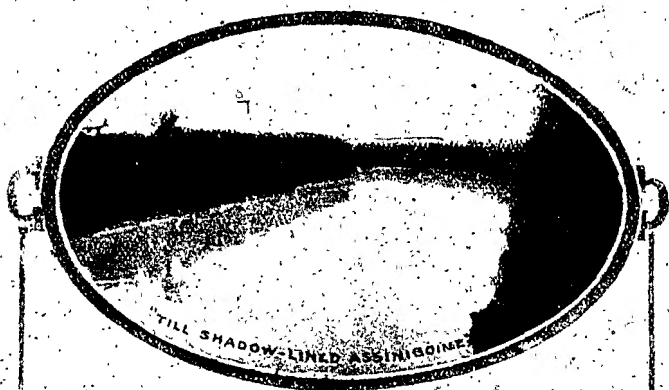
Winnipeg, Canada



OCT 22 1951
Cop. 1.

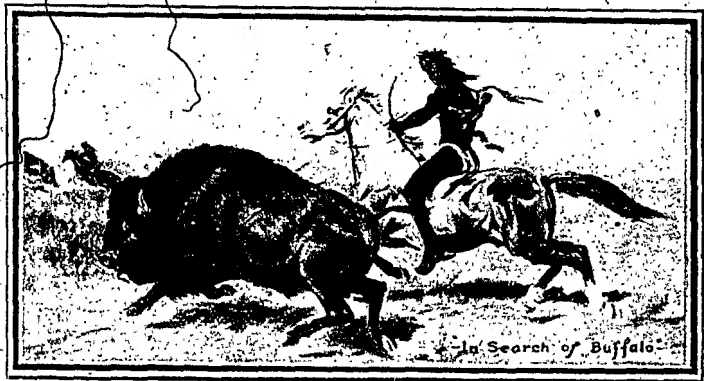
To
The Honorable Walter Humphries Montague
whose
Eloquent tongue, brilliant scholarship
and
Genial personality all alike
Adorn the social life of Western Canada





1

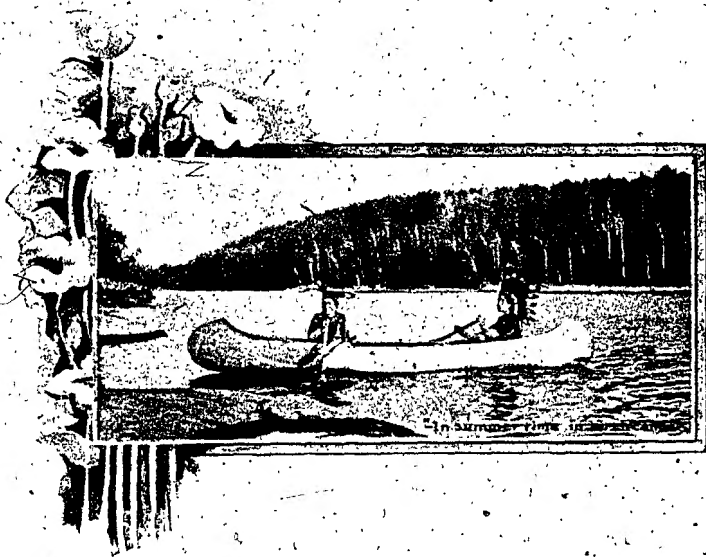
AWAY from west and southern hills
Two rivers issue forth;
The one meanders easterly,
The other travels north;
They, serpentine round about,
In circling paths are led,
Till shadow-lined Assiniboine
Meets slowly creeping Red.



THE place these tortuous waters meet,
Far-distant years ago,
Was trysting place for red-faced men
In search of buffalo.
They, with the swift "coureurs-du-bois,"
Now long forgotten, dead,
Pitched tent upon the Assiniboine
And paddled o'er the Red.



"To Trade with Breed and Indian"

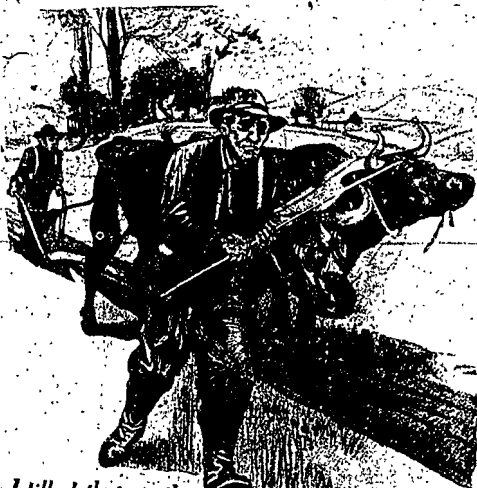


"In Summer Time in the Lake"

Where the Rivers Meet.

III

THEN came the men of Hudson's Bay
With blanket, gun, and ball,
To trade with breed and Indian
For furs most prized of all.
In summer time in birch canoe
In winter time in sled,
The trapper sought the Assiniboine
At junction of the Red.

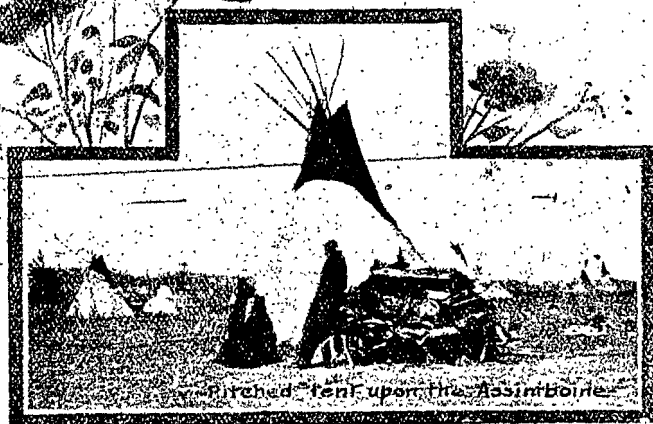


*"And tilled their soil
and sowed their seed"*

Where the Rivers Meet

IV

AND then Lord Selkirk's Pioneers
Came in the traders' place,
And tilled their soil and sowed their seed,
A sturdy Scottish race ;
They mingled with the Indian tribes,
And native women wed,
And peopled where Assiniboine
Flows winding into Red.

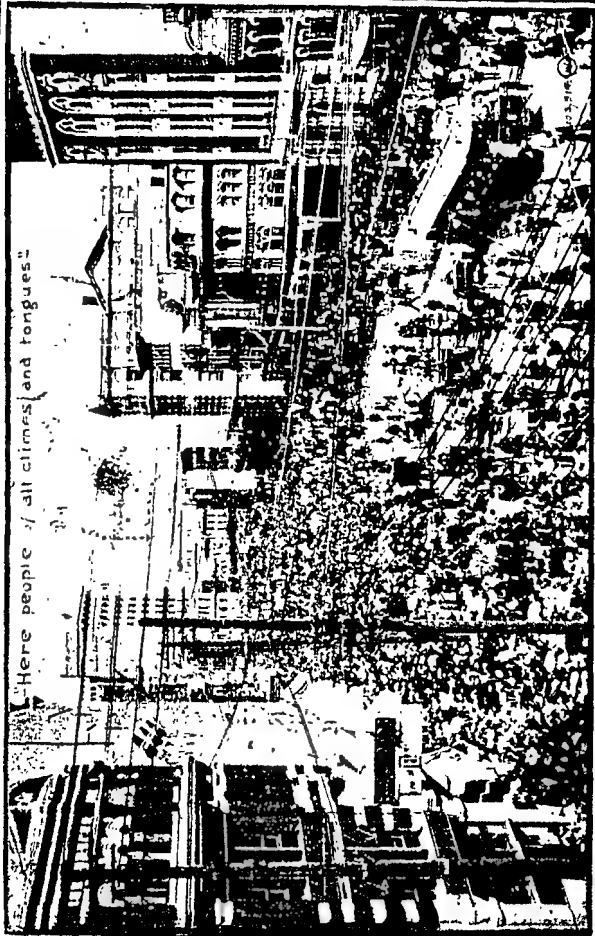


Where the Rivers Meet

V

THEY suffered untold hardships, too,
These settlers brave and bold;
In spring time floods swept o'er their land,
In winter cruel cold;
Gaunt famine often stalked the plains;
They sometimes lacked for bread;
Where waters of Assiniboine
Turn northward into Red.

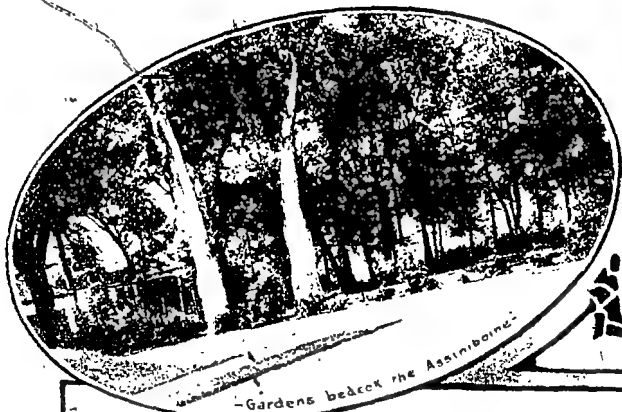
"Here people of all climes and tongues"



Where the Rivers Meet

VI

BUT many cycling years have flown
Since Selkirk's men held sway;
Their part well played on Life's great stage,
They, too, have passed away;
And now a city strong and grand,
Stands in their place and stead,
Where verdant banked Assiniboine
Unites with sluggish Red.



-Gardens bedeck the Assiniboine-

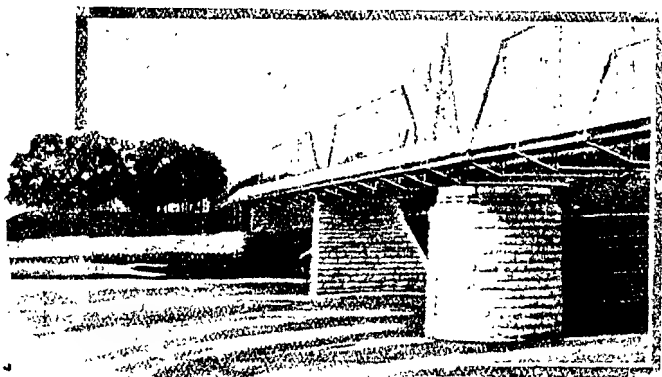


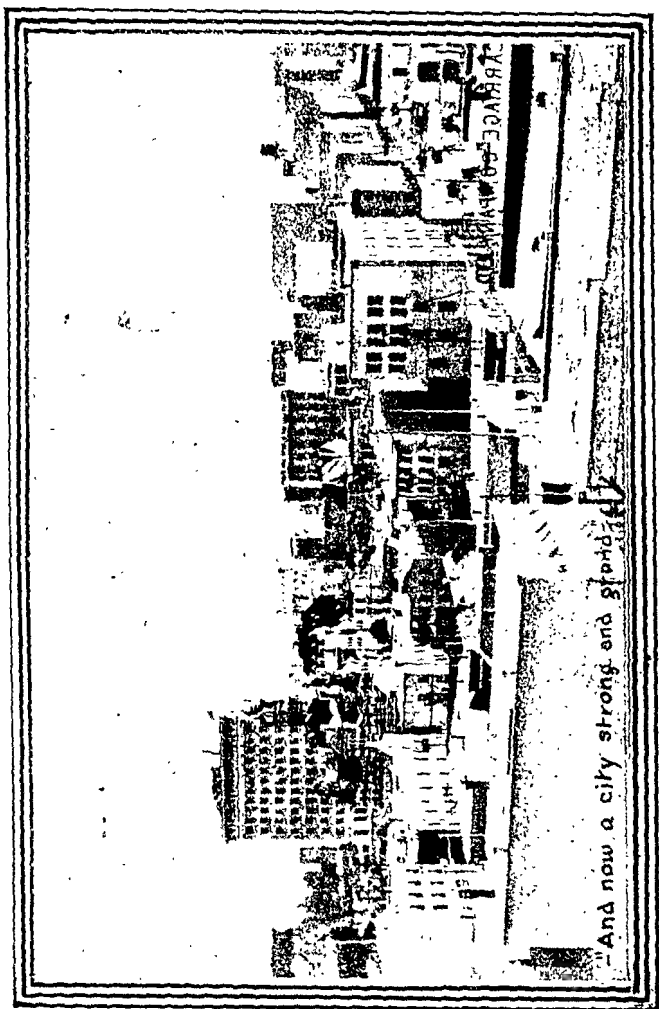
-Fair Villas tree-embosomed stand-



VII

THE iron horse's shriek is heard,
The trolley's constant roar,
Fair villas tree-embosomed, stand
Where wigwams stood before;
Majestic bridges span the streams,
Wide streets with commerce fed,
Gardens bedeck the Assiniboine,
And parks adorn the Red.



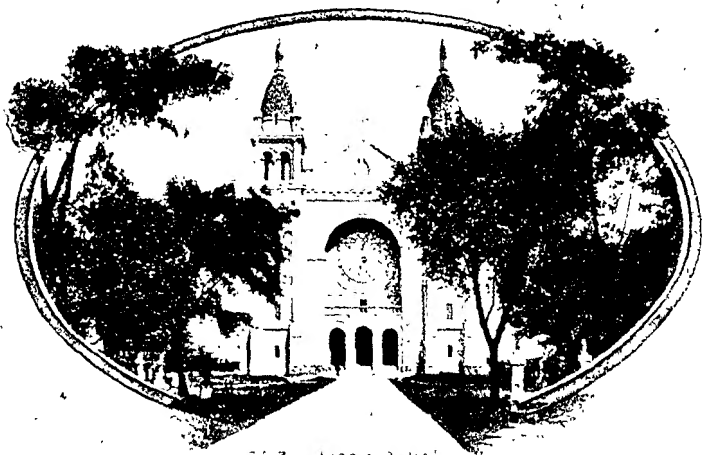


"And now a city strong and grand."

Where the Rivers Meet

VIII

FROM distant European shores
Here, myriads yearly come
In search of land and liberty
Denied to them at home
Here people of all climes and tongues
From morn till evening tread
The streets where the Assiniboine
Rolls silent into Red.



DE BUREAU & BUREAU

Where the Rivers Meet

IX

COULD Whittier, who sublimely sang
Of Boniface's bells,
Foretell the transformation scene
This simple story tells?
Could we into the future peer,
Time's scroll again outspread,
What changes! where Assiniboine
Sweeps gently into Red.



Where the Rivers Meet

X

HOLD! leafy sloped Assiniboine,
Stay! muddy, straggling Red,
Can man not draw a lesson from
Thy slimy, crooked bed?
Life's waters foul, Life's devious ways
May cleansed and straightened be,
Like thine transmuted ere they reach
Th' illimitable sea.